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REPORT

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[redacted] report on maneuvers conducted by the GSFG (Group of Soviet Forces in Germany) during the summer and fall of 1957. The report also includes information on units of the 24th Air Army which participated in the maneuvers.

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Maneuvers of the GSFG in the Summer and Fall of 1957

Army and Air Forces

Preface

The close cooperation of army and air forces during the 1957 GSFG maneuvers (army maneuvers with air force support) requires a joint treatment. This report, therefore, contains all information on the combined activities of the two weapons, except for data of interest only to the Air Force, which will be treated in a separate report on exercises of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army.

A. General

1. Between 25 July and 10 October 1957, the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany (GSFG) conducted at least 10 major exercises at, or exceeding divisional level which can be regarded as maneuvers. Of these exercises, 9 were conducted jointly by Army and Air Force, while only one exercise was held without Air Force support and one exercise served air defense purposes exclusively.
2. These training activities of the army covered a period of 73 days (including movements to and from exercise area and assembly), 31 days of which were used for combat activities proper. Combat activities of the Air Force within the framework of these exercises covered a period of 40 days, in addition to one day of air defense training.
During the 1956 maneuvers, army exercises above divisional level covered a total of 66 days including 43 days of combat activities proper. Air force employment, in 1956, concentrated on only 6 days of commitment.
This indicates that, with regard to the length of employment of army units, there is no essential difference between the 1956 and 1957 maneuvers (except for the proportion between the total period of maneuvers and the duration of combat activities proper), whereas the difference is quite obvious with the Air Force which, in 1956, was employed only in a few army maneuvers.

3. Army units and elements participated in the following number of exercises:

GSFG	in 5 exercises;
First Gds Mech Army (Tank)	in 2 exercises;
Second Gds Mech Army (Tank)	in 1 exercise;
Third Gds Mech Army	in 3 exercises;
Fourth Gds Mech Army	in 3 exercises;
Third Shock Army (Mech)	in 2 exercises;
Eighth Gds Army (Mech)	in 3 exercises.

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Thirteen divisions participated in one, and 6 divisions in two exercises. No maneuvers were observed with 3 divisions. It can, however, be assumed that these divisions also conducted at least one major exercise.

4. According to composition of practicing units, the following 3 groups of exercises can be distinguished:
 - a. Three exercises involving elements of various armies:
 - 19-22 Aug, Letzlinger Heide - Genthin - Altengrabow area:
 - elms Third Gds Meoz Army
 - elms Fourth Gds Meoz Army
 - presum elms Eighth Gds Army (Meoz)
 - elms GSFG
 - elms NVA
 - 15-19 Sep, Lieberose trg gr area:
 - elms Third Gds Meoz Army
 - elms Eighth Gds Army (Meoz)
 - possibly elms First Gds Meoz Army (Tank)
 - elms GSFG
 - 7-10 Oct, Perleberg - Wittstock - Templin - Neuruppin area:
 - elms Second Gds Meoz Army (Tank)
 - elms Fourth Gds Meoz Army
 - elms GSFG
 - b. Five exercises involving elements of several divisions of the same army:
 - 25-27 Jul, northern portion of Letzlinger Heide:
 - units Third Shock Army (Meoz)
 - elms GSFG
 - 13-16 Sep, Wittstock trg gr area:
 - units Fourth Gds Meoz Army
 - 29 Sep-4 Oct, Wittenberg - Justerbog - Jessen area:
 - units Third Gds Meoz Army
 - elms GSFG
 - 3-6 Oct, area southwest of Jena, terminated in Ohrdruf:
 - units Eighth Gds Army (Meoz)
 - c. Two exercises involving only one division reinforced by army units:

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6-7 Sep, Zeithain - Grossenhain area:
bulk 9th Tank Div
elms army units First Gds Mees Army (Tank)

12-15 Sep, Letzlinger Heide area:
strong elms 7th Gds Tank Div
elms army units Third Gds Mees Army

The same three types of exercises were observed during the 1956 maneuvers. Prior to 1956, only exercises of the types mentioned in paragraphs b) and c) were conducted. In addition, it may be mentioned that numerous exercises at reinforced regimental level are usually held.

In 1957, the NVA for the first time participated with entire units in a Soviet maneuver.

5. Annex 1 is a tabulation indicating the 10 exercises, broken down according to date, exercise areas and participating units. In addition, it contains references to sketches attached in Annexes 2 through 9.

B. Exercises

I. Exercise Third Shock Army (Mees) from 25 to 27 July 1957

(see Annex 2)

Exercise area: Northern portion of Letzlinger Heide

1. Army

a. Participating Units:

Bulk 18th Gds Mees Div
Elms 19th Gds Mees Div (Tank)
Elms 207th Mtz Rifle Div (Mees)
Bulk 44th Army Arty Brig)
Elms 3d Gds AAA Div) Third Shock Army (Mees)
possibly 304th Arty Brig)

Twenty-Fourth Air Army: Fighters, bombers, reconnaissance aircraft.

b. Rail Shipments and Movements of Columns to Assembly Areas:

(Assembly areas: north and/or east of northern portion of Letzlinger Heide)

24/25 Jul, 12 shipments from Ludwigslust - Parchim - Perleberg area.
4 shipments from Altengrabow.
2 shipments from Quedlinburg.

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25 Jul, 1800, large AAA column passing through
Tangermünde toward Stendal.

c. Detailed Observations:

25 Jul, in the morning, continuous flights of helicopters
over northern portion of Letzlinger Heide.
2230, dropping of aircraft parachute flares over area
south of Jaevenitz.

26 Jul, in the morning, assembly of 400 tanks near
Schnoeggarsburg, inspection by numerous Soviet generals.

26/27 Jul, several hundred tanks en route from Uchtspringe
to Lindstedt.

27 Jul, 0215 - 0400, heavy arty firing from direction
south of Jaevenitz; continuous noise of engines, presum
of tanks. Jaevenitz illuminated by muzzle flashes and
impacts.

d. Rail Shipments and Movements of Columns after Completion
of Exercise:

27/28 Jul, beginning in the evening hours, large-scale
loadings of tanks at usual loading stations in northern
portion of Letzlinger Heide.
12 shpmts to Parchim - Perleberg.
2 shpmts to Altengrabow.
1 shpmt to Quedlinburg.

1 Aug, 2 shpmts to Neubukow.

28 Jul, 2 major arty columns to Magdeburg from direction
Heyrothsberge.

e. Comment:

Above observations indicate that the exercise involved
units of the Third Shock Army (Meer); date and scale
were unexpected. A similar exercise was conducted by the
Eighth Gds Army in late July 1956; however, an exercise
of this size had not been expected at this date and so
shortly after the reorganization of army units stationed
in the GDR.

It can be assumed that the reorganization of tank units
had also been completed at that time.

While tracked elements moved to the exercise area by
rail, wheeled elements, particularly those of the 19th
Gds Meer Div (Tank) stationed near the exercise area,

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arrived by road. These movements, as well as the arrival at the assembly areas south of Jaevenitz and the moving into defensive positions in and on either side of Jaevenitz were controlled by helicopters. It is noted that the Soviets used their frequently observed tactics to launch the attack under the cover of darkness. The problem of the exercise presumably was "attack against a prepared position". Return shipments were executed as usual, i. e. tracked elements were shipped by rail, wheeled elements by road.

The 2 shipments from Jaevenitz to Neubukow tend to indicate that units of the 3d AAA Div participating in the exercise subsequently went to Mustrow for firing practices.

2. Air Forces

a. Participating Flying Units of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army

Supervision of Exercises Hq of Twenty-Fourth Air Army
(Main Director Headquarters)

Fmr Div Werneuchen
Fmr Regts Walsow

Northern Ftr Corps: Hq
Ftr Div Pustnitz

Southern Ftr Corps: Hq
Ftr Div Merseburg (at night: Alt-Loennewitz)

b. Missions:

Reconnaissance aircraft/bombers: Weather reconnaissance
(Briesen, Walsow; 1,800 m).

Fighters: Air space control by day and night (Alt-Loennewitz).

Bombers: Bombing attacks with subsequent dropping of
live bombs at tng gr (Gadow-Rossow).

c. Transfers:

From late July to approximately mid-August 1957, Mahlwinkel emergency airfield was occupied by "several" MiG-17s. Trails on the sod (pressed-down grass) tended to indicate that a metal runway had been installed during this period.

Prior to late July 1957, the airfield may have been occupied by elements of Ftr Regt Merseburg which

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participated in the abovementioned exercise. (See also exercise 19-22 August.)

II. Joint Exercise of Elements of the Third and Fourth Gds Mezz Armies
from 19 to 22 August 1957

(see Annex 3)

Exercise area: Letzlinger Heide - Genthin - Altsengrabow area

1. Army

a. Participating Units:

Western Party:

7th Gds Tank Div/Third Gds Mezz Army
36th Bridge Bldg Regt/GSFG
w/1 Amph Engr Regt, Gera/GSFG
presum elms 57th Gds Mts Rifle Div (Mezz)/Eighth Gds Army (Mezz)
presum elms 10th Arty Brig/6th Arty Div
presum elms 62d AAA Div/Third Gds Mezz Army
elms 1st Mts Rifle Div/NVA

Eastern Party:

1st Mezz Div/Fourth Gds Mezz Army
elms 308th Arty Brig/Eighth Gds Army (Mezz)
bulks 71st Arty Brig/Fourth Gds Mezz Army
elms 2d Arty Brig/Second Gds Mezz Army
presum AAA units/Fourth Gds Mezz Army from Fuerstenwalde
elms 1st Mts Rifle Div/NVA

Twenty-Fourth Air Army: Fighters, bombers, reconnaissance and transport aircraft.

b. Rail Shipments and Movements of Columns to Assembly Areas:

16-18 Aug, to northern portion of Letzlinger Heide:
14 shipments from Erfurt (5) and Halle (9)
districts;
18 shipments from Dessau-Rosslau area;
10 shipments from Moser (4) - Burg (1) -
Altsengrabow (5) area;
8 shipments from area west of Berlin (6) and
from Brandenburg;

to Genthin - Brandenburg area:
15 shipments from area west of Berlin;
5 shipments from Bernau (3) - Fuerstenwalde (2);

to Magdeburg 4 shipments from Templin (NVA).

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16 Aug, 1 engr column from direction Gera through Zeitz toward Leipzig.

17 Aug, 2 shpmts incl appr 35 APCs, AT guns and morts from direction Neudietendorf toward Erfurt.
3 shpmts incl 40 T-34s, 3 amphib tanks, 4 JSU-76s from direction Erfurt toward Sangerhausen.
Tank shpmt from Erfurt toward Leipzig.
Column incl AT guns and morts from Gotha barracks area toward rr station at Langensalza.
Loading of units in Priort, Satskorn, Dallgow, Bernau, Dessau, Gera.

16/17/18 Aug, several engr columns from southern direction passing through, and some starting in, Magdeburg proceeding toward Wolmirstedt.

17/18 Aug, several columns incl engr from northern direction, passing through Gardelegen to Letzlinger Heide.

18/19 Aug, several columns passing through Haldensleben in northern direction (NVA).

Detailed Observations:

16 and 17 Aug, intensive traffic by columns in and/or in connection with, northern portion Letzlinger Heide. Indications of large-scale unloading of tanks.

17-22 Aug, numerous individual movements which tend to indicate major exercise involving large engr units in area east of Letzlinger Heide.

19 Aug, large-scale troop movements in area northern portion of Letzlinger Heide and eastward as far as Elbe River, including also NVA units (Dolle - Luederitz - Burgstall area).

17 and 18 Aug, heavy traffic by columns and exercises northwest of Burg.

21 Aug, intensive maneuvers east of Elbe River between Burg and Genthin. Arty and inf emplacements observed.

22 Aug, large troop assemblies in Burg - Parey area, incl engr with pontoons, marching in eastern direction; north of Genthin, presum NVA as adjacent unit to the left.

22 and 23 Aug, Soviet Army and NVA columns (tanks and arty) from direction Luederitz and Demker toward Buch and Elbe River.

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19-22 Aug, all barracks installations in Doeberitz occupied only by rear details.

23 Aug, Camp Doeberitz, which had been vacant for some days, again reoccupied in the afternoon of 23 Aug.

d. Return Shipments:

23/24 Aug, of 37 trains from Guesten/Glueck - Wiesenburg - Altengrabow area which were to be loaded, the following shipments were observed:

21 shpmts to area west of Berlin;
5 shpmts to Bernau (3) and Fuerstenwalde (2);
3 shpmts to Gera;
3 shpmts to Crawinkel.

23 Aug, 3 shpmts incl APCs and arty from Guesten to Erfurt. Loading of engr units incl appr 30 TMs and appr 4-5 amph tanks at Wolmirstedt rr station. Column from direction Bernburg toward Halle. One tank shpmt passing through Wustemark in direction Doeberitz.

24 Aug, unloading of 3 shpmts at Dessau. Return shpmts from Magdeburg distr toward Templin (NVA).

23/24 Aug, return of units (unloadings at Bernau, Priort, Satzorn, Dallgow, Doeberitz, Gera, Forst Zinna tent camp (on 26 Aug), Crawinkel, Dessau).

e. Comments:

According to shipments and movements of columns observed, the reinforced 7th Sds Tank Div conducted an exercise against the reinforced 1st Mscz Div which also involved the 1st Mtz Rifle Div/NVA and extended from Letalinger Heide via the Elbe River section into the Altengrabow area. The assembly areas, in addition to observations made on both sides of the Elbe River and in connection with the loading area of the bulk of the participating units approximately 40 km southeast of the exercise area, tend to indicate that the problem of the exercise presumably was "attack in deployed formation of a tank division reinforced by mechanized elements against an enemy defending the Elbe River section, subsequent forced river crossing and break-through into the depth of the enemy position". The particularly intensive employment of engr units with both amph tanks and TM equipment, tends to indicate that river crossing in deployed formation was one of the problems of the exercise.

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The small number of return shipments (70 shipments to, approximately 35 from exercise area) can be explained by the fact that, during the final phase of the exercise, numerous units were near their posts. The exercise was presumably directed by the Hq GSFG since not only numerous elements of various armies, but also NVA forces participated in this exercise.

2. Air Forces

a. Participating Flying Units of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army:

Supervision of Exercise: Hq of Twenty-Fourth Air Army
(Main Director Headquarters)

Emr Div Wernauwen
Rcn Regt Walzow (IL-28s)
Rcn Regt Altenburg (MiG-15s)
Rcn Regt Zerbst (MiG-15s/Mi-1s)
Trans Regt Schoenefeld

Northern Ftr Corps: Hq

Ftr Div Rechlin-Laerz

Southern Ftr Corps: Hq

Ftr Div Zerbst

b. Missions:

Fighters: Air space control over combat area;
Combat reconnaissance;
Escort for bombers;
Attacks at bombers.

Bombers: Dropping of bombs at targets in operational area.

Reconnaissance aircraft:
Weather reconnaissance;
Combat reconnaissance;
Photographic reconnaissance;
Target and strike reconnaissance.

Transport aircraft:
Transfer of Rcn Regt Altenburg to Brandenburg-Brisat.

c. Transfer:

From 20 to 22 Aug 1957, elements of Rcn Regt Altenburg

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temporarily transferred to Brandenburg-Briest.
Elements of Ftr Regt Zerbst temporarily transferred to
Mahlwinkel emergency airfield, presumably for participation
in above exercise.

III. Exercise of Third Shock Army (Meer) from 3 to 7 September 1957

(see Annex 4)

Exercise area: Eastern portion of Letzlinger Heide - Stendal -
Genthin - Altengrabow - Magdeburg - on both
sides of the Elbe River.

1. Army

a. Participating Units

Hq Third Shock Army (Meer)
large elms 19th Gds Meer Div (Tank)
elms 94th Gds Mtn Rifle Div (Meer)
bulk 36th Bridge Bldg Regt/GSFG
elms 10th Gds RL Regt)
elms 3d Gds AAA Div) Third Shock Army (Meer)

Twenty-Fourth Air Army: Fighters, bombers, reconnaissance
aircraft.

b. Rail Shipments and Movement of Columns to Assembly Areas:

30 Aug, engr column incl appr 25 TMRs passing through
Burg in eastern direction.

1 Sep, 1 tank shpmt passing through Rathenow toward
Prennitz.

1/2 Sep, 5 shpmts Schwerin distr - Wittenburg. Loading
at Schwerin rr station.

2 Sep, departure of large arty and inf columns from Flak
Kaserne (5641), Wittenburg, toward Schwerin.
From Magdeburg in eastern direction: column with 20
radio vabs, some with large trailers, presum Army Hq.

2/3 Sep, rail shipments incl arty, and several major
columns, predominantly meer units, arty and engr,
passing through Magdeburg toward Letzlinger Heide.

3 Sep, loading of appr 40 RLs at Brandenburg; 1 shpmt
with 36 RLs passing through Rathenow in western direction.
Kaserne West (5181), Hillarsleben: departure of inf
units toward Letzlinger Heide.

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c. Detailed Observations:

3 Sep, helicopters repeatedly observed over Stendal area.

5 and 6 Sep, continuous very intensive air activity by jet aircraft in the same area

5, 5/6 and 6 Sep, heavy reports of guns from area southwest of Stendal.

5 Sep, column from Gardelegen toward Letzlingen.

6 and 7 Sep, intensive training activity in Kehnert area. Crossing of Ihle Canal.

d. Termination of Exercise:

7 Sep, heavy traffic by columns incl AA guns from Magdeburg in eastern direction.

Loading of arty units at Mahlwinkel rr station.

Empty trains made available at Gussen and Burg rr stations.

e. Comments:

This is already the second exercise of the Third Shock Army (Mecz) in this year, again with the 19th Gds Mecz Div (Tank), this time with strong elements, and with elements of the 94th Gds Mts Rifle Div (Mecz) which arrived from Schwerin. The participation of the Army Hq could almost definitely be determined.

The crossing of the Ihle Canal, the intensive activities in the Kehnert area, as well as loadings and preparation of loadings in the Burg - Gussen - Mahlwinkel area tend to indicate that this exercise was based on an attack in a general northwestern direction extending from the Altengrabow area to Letzlinger Heide.

The small number of shipments and columns observed after the termination of the exercise can be explained by the fact that the bulk of the participating units were near their posts at that time.

2. Air Force

a. Participating Flying Units of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army:

Supervision of Exercises: Northern Ftr Corps Hq
Ftr Div Pustnitz (Wittstock,
Perzhin, Pustnitz)
Ftr Div Werneuchen (elements)

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b. Missions:

Fighters: Combat reconnaissance;
Air space control over and near the front area;
GA commitments;
Escort for bombers.

Bombers: Dropping of bombs with fighter escort.

c. Transfers:

On 6 September 1957, elements of Pfr Regt Pustnitz temporarily transferred from Pustnitz to Parchim.

IV. Exercise of the 9th Tank Div from 6 to 7 September 1957

Exercise area: Zeithain - Grossenhain

1. Army

a. Participating Units:

bulk 9th Tank Div)	
elms Arty Brig.)	
elms RL Regt)	First Gds Mees Army
elms Engr Regt)	

Twenty-Fourth Air Army: Fighters, bombers.

b. Arrival at Assembly Area:

7 Sep, 0900, large column incl tanks and SP guns on Coarsig - Wuelknitz road in area west of Lichtensee. In wooded area north of Camp Zeithain, 15 T-54s, appr 30 APCs M-3 and large number of trucks.

c. Detailed Observations:

7 Sep, 1015, tank attack from Jakobsthal - Fichtenberg area toward Elbe River with artillery support. RL and AAA emplacements were seen.
1100, river crossing of inf elements at a width of appr 1 km in Kaitzschhauser area; subsequently bridge construction with TMP equipment. In order to protect the river crossing, tanks had fired smoke shells. Attack was supported by low-level attacks of 8 jet fighters.

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d. Movements of Columns after Termination of Exercise:

7 Sep, 1700, tank and arty column from direction Gohlis toward Riesa.

1800, arty and AT gun column via Lichtensee toward Wuelknitz.

1900, engr column incl appr 70 TMP from direction tng gr toward Grossenhain.

8 Sep, Goltz Kaserne (1802), Riesa, and Zaschendorf Kaserne (1601), Meissen: indications of return of units during the night.

e. Comments:

According to columns and observations at posts, this exercise involved the 9th Tank Div reinforced by army units. The short period of only 1 hour between the arrival at the assembly area of advance elements of the column approaching from the east and the beginning of the attack tends to indicate that the problem of the exercise was "attack after short assembly with the aim to occupy the Elbe River section south of Muehlberg under smoke screen protection, subsequent bridge construction and formation of a bridgehead". The smooth progress of this exercise indicates a high training level of the division.

2. Air Forces

a. Participating Flying Units of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army:

Supervision of Exercise: Southern Ftr Corps Hq
Ftr Div Grossenhain (Finsterwalde,
Altenburg, Grossenhain)
Bmr Div Werneuchen

b. Missions:

Fighters: Combat reconnaissance;
Air space control;
Low-level attacks;
Escort for bombers.

Bombers: Dropping of bombs at targets in operational area.

c. Transfers:

No transfers observed.

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V. Exercise of the 7th Gds Tank Div from 12 to 15 September 1957

Exercise area: Letzlinger Heide

1. Army

a. Participating Units:

Elms 7th Gds Tank Div/Third Gds Mecc Army
Army units of Third Gds Mecc Army

b. Shipments and Individual Observations:

11/12 Sep, 6 shpmts to Fleetsmark - Messdorf - Gardalegen
area from Jueterbog (4) - Luckenwalde (2) area.
6 shpmts to Hillersleben - Gardalegen - Mahlwinkel area
from Dessau (1) - Zerbst (1) - Meinsdorf (4) area.

15 Sep, indications of maneuvers in Letzlinger Heide.

17 Sep, 3 shpmts Hillersleben - u/i destination.

18 Sep, 12 T-54s arrived at Kaserne Kochstedt (3241) after
unloading at Dessau rr station.

c. Comment:

In spite of the fact that no observations are available
on the development of the exercise, the corresponding
dates of shipments of units of the Third Gds Mecc Army
to Letzlinger Heide area tend to indicate a joint
exercise of these units. Thus, the 7th Gds Tank Div has
been practicing in the same area for the second time
in 1957.

2. Air Force

Participation of air force units could not be observed.

VI. Exercise of the Fourth Gds Mecc Army from 13 to 16 September 1957

(see Annex 5)

Exercise area: Wittstock tug gr.

1. Army

a. Participating Units:

Western Party:

Large elms 10th Gds Tank Div/Fourth Gds Mecc Army
Army units of Fourth Gds Mecc Army

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Eastern Party:

Large alms 6th Gds Mecz Div/Fourth Gds Mecz Army

b. Rail Shipments and Movements of Columns to the Assembly Areas:

10 Sep, 16 shpmts to Perleberg - Pritzwalk area from Wildpark - Priort - Dallgow area and from Strausberg (2).

10 Sep, 10 shpmts to Altruppin - Lindow area from Berlin/Kaulsdorf (2) - Bernau (2) - Oranienburg (2) - Eberswalde (1) - Bad Freienwalde (2) area and from Beeskow (1).

Loadings were observed in Wildpark, Satz Korn, Priort, Dallgow, Bad Freienwalde, Berlin/Kaulsdorf, Oranienburg, Bernau and Eberswalde.

Considerable delay of regular trains on the Oranienburg - Templin rr line by continuous military rail shipments.

1 engr shpmt incl appr 25 full-track amph vehs at Zandnick rr station headed toward Loewenberg.

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13 Sep, 2 large columns, predominantly mecz and arty alms:
1st column: appr 375 vehs from direction Bad Freienwalde;
2nd column: appr 250 vehs from direction Kaserne Eberswalde;
joining on Finowfurth - Liebenwalde road and proceeding toward the west.
One column passing through Bernau in direction Wandlitz.

c. Detailed Observations:

11 Sep, kasernes on Pappelallee (2287/2288), Potsdam, Kavallerie Schule (2161), Kremnitz, and all kasernes at Doeberitz vacant, except for rear details.

12-16 Sep, blocked road and guides in Altruppin - Rheinsberg area.

13/14 Sep, exercises incl bridge construction with TBP equipment over Molschow Lake, appr 150 m north of Neumuehle Lock, in area north of Altruppin.

14 Sep, intensive air activity over Bernau; flight direction predominantly from east to west.

15 Sep, heavy vehicular traffic incl salvage tanks in Lindow area. Intensive noise of tanks and firing in the woods near Lindow.

16-18 Sep, movements incl all branches of service in Rheinsberg - Altruppin-Loewenberg - Gransee area.

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d. Return Shipments and Movements:

16/17 Sep, 10 shipments from Altruppin to Satakorn - Wildpark area.

16/17 Sep, 6 shipments from Schwerin distr to Berlin/Kaulsdorf (2) - Oranienburg (2) - Bernau (2) area.
2 shipments from Graefewald distr to Hennigsdorf (1) and Beeskow (1).
Loadings at Altruppin and Neuruppin rr stations.

17 Sep, unloadings at Hennigsdorf, Satakorn and Bernau rr stations.
Units had returned to Potsdam and Krampnitz.

16 Sep, enge column incl 38 TMs from direction Altruppin toward Krammen.
Arty column incl AT guns and heavy mortars from direction Loewenberg toward Oranienburg.
Column of appr 120 to 150 wags resting in Neuruppin.
Several columns, predominantly arty and mecz elements, from direction Finowfurth passed through Eberswalde and proceeded toward Artillerie Kaserne (4341).

e. Comments:

The unloading and loading areas in connection with observations made during the exercise tend to indicate that the reinforced 10th Gds Tank Div, after assembling in the area south of Pritzwitz, advanced toward an enemy represented by strong elements of the 6th Gds Mecz Div which had possibly prepared defensive positions along the Mecklenburgian lakes, west of the general Neuruppin - Rheinsberg line. Reports on the bridge construction over Molekow lake and on the intensive activities in the Lindow area support the assumption that the 10th Gds Tank Div has thrown the enemy from his positions and has further advanced toward the east.

This exercise was also very informative, because the column from the direction of Bad Freienwalde which definitely involved the 16th Gds Mecz Regt, the only unit stationed at Bad Freienwalde, furnished valuable indications as to the present organization, especially of AT and mortar units. The same applies to the return shipments to the Eberswalde kasernes, which furnished information on the organization of arty units.
According to these observations, arty, AT and mortar units are now organized into 3 batteries, each equipped with 6 guns or mortars. Units equipped with 122-mm field howitzers, 85-mm AT guns and 160-mm mortars were observed.

2. Air Force

Assumed that alms Pzr Div Rechlin-Laerz were employed.

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**VII. Joint Exercise of Elements of the Third Gds Mecc Army with
Elements of the Eighth Gds Army (Mecc) from 15 to 19 September 1957**
(see Annex 6)

Exercise area: Lieberose tog gr

1. Army

a. Participating Units:

Elms 14th Gds Mecc Div)
Elms 9th Mecc Div) Third Gds Mecc Army
Strong elms 21st Gds Mecc Div/Eighth Gds Army (Mecc)
Light elms 3d and 4th Gds AT Brig)
Elms 6th Arty Div, Altengrabow) GSFG
Elms u/1 Engr Regt, Bernburg)
presum elms 32d AAA Div)
presum elms 62d AAA Div/Third Gds Mecc Army

Twenty-Fourth Air Army: Fighters, bombers, reconnaissance
aircraft.

b. Rail Shipments and Movements of Columns to Assembly Areas:

12 Sep, 2 shpmts Bernburg - Cottbus distr
2 shpmts Altengrabow - Cottbus distr

13/14 Sep, 3 shpmts Justerbog - Luebben
15 shpmts Halle distr - Cottbus distr

14 Sep, 4 shpmts Justerbog - Halle distr
1 shpmt Greifswald distr (Schwerin) - Cottbus distr

15 Sep, 1 shpmt Greifswald distr (Rostock) - Cottbus distr

17 Sep, 1 shpmt Altengrabow - ?

13 Sep, 2300, tank column of appr 80 tanks from direction
Halbe toward Lieberose.

13 Sep, 2330, arty column of appr 24 guns from direction
Krausnick toward Lieberose.

13/14 Sep, 2400 - 0900, large tank, arty, inf and engr
units in 2 columns from direction Gollsen and Luckau via
Luebben toward Lieberose. Units of Luebben post joined
these columns. Additional units of all weapons went
toward Lieberose from direction Krausnick and direction
Neu-Luebbeau during the night.

14 Sep, continuous traffic by columns incl APCs, arty
and morts on the road from Lossa in direction Laucha.
Column incl arty from direction Rossbach toward Marseburg.
Column incl arty and Rls from Jessen in eastern direction.

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13 Sep, unloading of 3 tank shpmts incl R1s at Luebben rr station; departure in direction Jamnitz.

14 Sep, unloading of tanks at Luebben rr station; tank shpmt through Cottbus toward Guben or Peitz.
Unusual troop movements from and to Lessa; continuous columns from direction Lessa to Rossleben rr station.

14/15 Sep, heavy vehicular traffic, predominantly track-laying vehicles, mostly tanks, en route from Tauer toward Guben.

14/15 Sep, unloading of tank shpmts at Luebben rr station; departure in eastern direction.

15 Sep, unloadings incl tanks and arty at Guben rr station. Three AAA columns (22 hv AA guns) passing through Tauer toward Guben.

15/16 Sep, arty column (appr 40 guns, 100 vehs) passing through Luckau from western to eastern direction.

c. Detailed Observations:

14 Sep, after 0600, intensive air activity at Briesen airfield. Taking-off of 10 IL-28s each toward Lieberose; individual take-off, return after appr 30 minutes.
Ulmen Kaserne (5481), Rostock, completely quiet; new garage vacant.

14/15 Sep, tank and arty columns from Tauer and Peitz toward Turnov. Defensive preparations in area east of Maiberg - Drachhausen - Blasdorf line.

15 Sep, Western Party assembled in area east of Luebbanau - east of Luebben - Neu Luebbanau - Neu Schadow - Wittmannsdorf - Lieberose - Buhlgehre.

14-19 Sep, contact with enemy in area of Lieberose tng gr and toward Peitz.

13-20 Sep, all crossroads in the entire maneuver area occupied by traffic control posts of Soviet Army. Umpires, all of them officers wearing white brassards and service caps, interfered several times and excluded personnel because of non-combatlike behavior.

16-19 Sep, all main highways in Lieberose - Peitz - Straupnitz area blocked to civilian traffic.

17/18 Sep, 2100 - 0500, firing of all weapons in area of Tauer tng gr, temporarily heavy barrage.

18 Sep, units attacked in direction Peitz.
0800 - 1600, continuous air force employment each 5 aircraft from Briesen airfield alternately employed for 30 minutes each.

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19 Sep, 1700, arty and AAA column en route from Peitz to Baeranklau.

d. Return Shipments and Movements:

19 Sep, loading of tanks at Jamlitz rr station.

19 Sep (?), unloading of 30 to 40 hv AA guns at Brandenburg-Altstadt rr station.

20 Sep, loading of tanks at Bukow (near Beeskow) rr station. Return of units stationed in Jaeger Kaserne (3341) and Infanterie Kaserne (3343), Luebben, observed.

21 Sep, loading of large tank units at Gross Leuthen and Luebben rr stations.

Unloading of tanks at Angersdorf rr station.

18 Sep, 2 shpmts Cottbus distr - Frankfurt/Oder

19/20 Sep, 25 shpmts from Lieberose - Peitz and/or Brand/N.L. - Luebben area to Halle distr and Magdeburg.

3 shpmts Muellrose - Altengrabow.

1 shpmt Muellrose - Holtzhausen.

20 Sep, 7 shpmts Beeskow - Angersdorf.

1 shpmt Beeskow - Rosaleben.

5 shpmts Grunow - Justerbog.

20/21 Sep, 1 shpmt Muellrose - Rostock.

20 Sep, continuous traffic by columns passing through Torgau toward Eilenburg.

Return of practicing units in western direction on the same roads on which they arrived.

20/21 Sep, columns with 125 tanks and appr 130 mot vehs incl AA guns from Krausnick via Gross Lubolz toward Luebben.

e. Comment:

According to movements and observations made at posts, units of the Third Gds Mezz Army and the Eighth Gds Army (Mezz) reinforced by GSFG units practiced in the area of Lieberose troop tag gr. The number of return shipments to the Halle and Magdeburg districts after the termination of the exercise exceeds that of the shipments to the exercise area by 16. Three of these 16 shipments may have involved units of the 62d AAA Div the transfer of which had not been observed and two return shipments of the

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14th Gds Mees Div, several shipments of which had reached the exercise area via the Halle district.

In spite of the possibility that the remaining 11 surplus return shipments included additional units of the 21st Gds Mees Div which could not be observed en route to the training area, they may also indicate the participation of additional w/i units. Since at least elements of tank divisions were employed in all other exercises in 1957, it may be assumed that tank units, possibly of the First Gds Mees Army (Tank) participated also in this exercise. If this assumption is correct, units of three different armies participated in this exercise.

The fact that, in spite of a distance of more than 200 km, all wheeled elements of the 21st Gds Mees Div were transferred by road again indicates that the Soviets make it a principle to move tracked and wheeled elements separately.

According to available information, the exercise presumably developed as follows: the Western Party attacked the Eastern Party from the area west of the Lieberose - Bynleguhre line. The Eastern Party had prepared for defense, with the foremost positions extending along the Maiberg - Drachhausen - Blasdorf line. The employment of units of 2 or possibly even 3 armies, the participation of elements of the Eighth Gds Army (Mees), which arrived from a distance of more than 200 km and practiced in the Lieberose area for the first time, and the fact that arty, AAA and engr units of the GSFG, but no army units were involved in this exercise, lead to the assumption, that this exercise was also directed by Hq GSFG.

2. Air Forces

a. Participating Flying Units of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army

Supervision: Hq of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army

Southern Air Corps Hq

Ftr Div Zerbst
Bnr Regt Briesen
Rm Regt Walsow
Trans Regt Schoansfeld

b. Missions:

Fighters: Air space control;
Combat reconnaissance;
Escort for bombers;
Attacks at bombers (also during night time).

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Bombers: Dropping of bombs by day and night at targets in operational area (at night: attack at airfield).

Transport aircraft:
Transfer of top-level ground personnel and materiel of elements of Pzr Regt Zerbst.

c. Transfer:

From 0850 to 2000 on 17 September, the bulk of Pzr Regt Merseburg transferred to Koethen. It returned approximately at 2030 on the same day. Elements including 4 MiG-17s remained in Koethen until 18 September.

On 20 September, Pzr Regt Zerbst transferred to an u/i airfield for 6 hours. Two transport aircraft participated in the transfer.

VIII. Undetermined Exercise from 28 September to 4 October 1957

Exercise area: Wittenberg - Justerbog - Jassen

1. Army

a. Participating Units:

presum elms 14th Gds Meoz Div?)
elms 9th Meoz Div) Third Gds Meoz Army
elms 8th Gds Meoz Div)
u/i Arch Engr Regt, Spereenberg/GSWG
u/i Engr Unit/8th Gds Meoz Div?
u/i Army Unit/Third Gds Meoz Army

Twenty-Fourth Air Army: Fighters, bombers,
reconnaissance aircraft.

b. Shipments from and to Training Area:

28 Sep, 2 shpmts from Brandenburg via Piesteritz;
1 shpmt Wummsdorf - Brand/N.L.

29 Sep, 2 shpmts Spereenberg - Zahna.

3 Oct, 2 shpmts Halle distr - Spereenberg;
3 shpmts Halle distr - Wummsdorf.

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c. Detailed Observations:

28 Sep, loading of engr units at Leipzig-Taucha rr station.

29 Sep, on the Forst - Luebbenau Autobahn section at the Cottbus - Senftenberg exit a very large column which came from the kaserne north of the Autobahn (presum Sachsendorf Kaserne (3802, Cottbus).

29 Sep, a column incl guns between Luckau and Zossen, in direction Zossen.

1 Oct, 2 columns from direction Werder-Markendorf via Forst Zinna firing range toward Jueterbog.

1st column: appr 150 T-34s, 3 JSUs, 4 amph tanks, and 17 trucks.

2nd column: totaling appr 500 vehs incl strong meez elms, 24x100-mm AA guns, 24x100-mm AT guns, 24x57-mm AT guns, 12x37-mm AA guns, 12 RLs, large number of radio vehs. Condition of soldiers and vehicles indicated long march.

1 Oct, 2 smaller columns from Wittenberg in southern direction.

2 Oct, loading of arty at Bergwitz rr station.

3 Oct, loading of tanks and arty at Wittenberg rr station. Loading of engrs and arty at Jessen rr station. Arty column from Wittenberg toward Pratau.

3/4 Oct, loading of tanks and engrs at Wittenberg rr station.

4 Oct, loading of tanks at Pratau rr station.

3 Oct, unloading of engrs at Leipzig-Taucha rr station.

4 Oct, AAA shpmt of appr 20 - 25 hv AA guns coming from direction Magdeburg, at Brandenburg main rr station.

5 Oct, unloading of arty at Cottbus rr station; departure toward kasernes.

d. Comments:

Available info indicates that a major exercise was held in the Wittenberg - Jueterbog - Jessen area but does not allow to identify participating units. They may have belonged to the Third Gds Meas Army; only the u/1 Amph Engr Regt/GSFG from Spersberg was definitely determined. No details are available on the development of the exercise.

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2. Air Forcea. Participating Flying Units of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army:

Supervision: 1. Southern Ftr Corps Hq
 2. Hq of Ftr Div Zerbst
 Ftr Div Zerbst (1 Regt Justerbog)
 Rmr Div Werneuchen (elements)

b. Missions:

Bombers: Dropping of bombs at targets in area near front.

Fighters: Air reconnaissance of movements (29 Sep, unloading) and of targets in area near front (assemblies, troop movements, tanks);
 Air space control (flying on defensive patrols?);
 Attacks at ground targets with fighter escort (GA missions).

IX. Exercise of the Eighth Gds Army (Meer) from 3 to 6 October 1957

(see Annex 3)

Exercise area: southwest of Jena - exercise terminating in Ohrdruf

1. Armya. Participating Units:Presum Western Party:Presum Eastern Party:

Elms 39th Gds Mts Rifle Div (Meer) Strong elms 20th Gds
 Meer Div (Tank)

Elms 57th Gds Mts Rifle Div (Meer))
 Elms 13th AAA Div) Eighth Gds
 Elms 316th Gds Army RL Regt) Army (Meer)
 possibly elms 43d Gds Army Arty Brig)
 Elms 45th Gds Engr Bn/39th Gds Mts Rifle Div (Meer)

Twenty-Fourth Air Army: Fighters.

b. Rail Shipments and Movements of Columns to Assembly Areas:

28 Sep, 1 tank shpnt at Meiningen rr station in south-eastern direction.

1 Oct, 3 tank shpnts allegedly unloaded at Kahla rr station; departure toward Rheinstaedt.

1 tanks shpnt allegedly unloaded at Orlamünde rr station; departure toward Rheinstaedt; fresh imprints of tank tracks observed on the road to Rheinstaedt.

Loading of tanks, mostly JS tanks, at Weimar freight station.

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1 Oct, 3 columns incl total of 55 tanks, mostly T-54s, from Forst Zeitz to Zeitz freight station; all tanks with maneuver symbols.

1/2 Oct, loading of tanks incl 40 JSs, 13 JSU-152s in 4 shpmts at Saale rr station, Jena; departure in southern direction.

2 Oct, loading of arty at Altenburg rr station. Loading of 18x100-mm AA guns at Weimar rr station; all guns with maneuver symbols.
 2 tank shpmts passing through Jena in southern direction.
 1 tank shpmt passing through Jena toward Weimar.
 1 tank shpmt from direction Weimar toward Jena.
 1 tank shpmt from direction Erfurt toward Gotha.
 1 small column with maneuver symbols south of Jena toward Nennsdorf.
 1 tank shpmt at Orlamuende rr station, headed toward Rudolstadt.
 1 tank shpmt at Kahla rr station, headed toward Rudolstadt.
 1 column incl RLs, all with maneuver symbols, from Saalfeld in northern direction.
 Departure of a large mecz column with at least 270 vehs incl light and medium AA guns, all with maneuver symbols, from Kaserne Loebstedt (8222), Jena, in southwestern direction. End of column observed in Ammersbach at 2230.

2 Oct, major number of troops and vehs incl 34 T-34s at Orlamuende rr station; presum unloaded there.
 Column of appr 100 vehs, mostly occupied by personnel, passing through Orlamuende from northern direction toward Jena.

3 Oct, arty shpmt passing through Neudietendorf rr station from direction Erfurt.
 Arty column with maneuver symbols from Rudolstadt toward Autobahn.

c. Detailed Observations:

2 Oct, 2200, 4 blocks of Kaserne Loebstedt (8222), Jena, not lighted.

1-3 Oct, assembly of troops in Soellnitz - Milda - Wintersroda area, troops came from direction Jena. It was learnt that these troops were to launch an attack via Neckeroda and Kranichfeld in direction Arnstadt.

3/4 Oct, numerous vehs in small formations from various directions passing through Blankenhain.

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4 Oct, in the morning, tank attack supported by infantry south of Blankenheim. Appr 30 T-54s observed.

d. Return Shipments and Movements:

6 Oct, 3 tank shpmts incl 60 tanks and 9 JSUs, and 2 arty shpmts incl 25 guns and 12 mortars, through Gotha rr station from direction Ohrdruf toward Erfurt.
1 tank shpmt at Weissenfels rr station headed toward Zeitz.

6 and 7 Oct, each 1 tank shpmt from Grawinkel toward Graefenroda.

6 Oct, 22 T-54s and some trucks and, 7 Oct, 16-20 T-54s and 2 T-34s from direction Zeitz freight station to Artillerie Kaserne (8542), Zeitz; additional 6 T-54s went to Zeitzer Forst.

7 Oct, unloading of 5 shpmts incl at least 12x85-mm AA guns, 32 tanks, mostly JS tanks, 16 JSUs at Saale rr station, Jena. Departure to Kaserne Zwettzen (8221) and Kaserne Loebstedt (8222), Jena.

8/9 Oct, tanks from Meiningen rr station toward kasernes.

Until 10 Oct, 20 shpmts of troops from other areas who had participated in the maneuvers left Ohrdruf area after termination of exercise.

e. Comments:

According to available reports, strong elements of the 20th Gds Meez Div (Tank) attacked elements of the 39th Gds Mts Rifle Div (Meez) and possibly elements of the 57th Gds Mts Rifle Div (Meez). It is, however, possible that elements of the latter div were also employed along with the 20th Gds Meez Div (Tank).

It could not be determined on which side army troops participated.

From one report and loadings after termination of maneuvers, it may be concluded that the 20th Gds Meez Div (Tank) attacked from the area southwest of Jena in a general east-western direction and that the exercise terminated in the area of Ohrdruf tag gr.

2. Air Forces

a. Participating Flying Units of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army

Supervision: Hq of Ftr Div Merseburg
Ftr Div Merseburg (Koschen)

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b. Missions:

Fighters: Combat reconnaissance;
5/6 Oct: intensive air activity with overlapping commitments (of each 2 - 6 MiGs);
Air space control;
Individual attacks at ground targets.

Alert stage 2, i.e. "keep prepared for commitment on call" - 3 minutes for preparations.

Unexpected Special Mission within Framework of Army Exercises:

Bringing-down of unmanned enemy aircraft with interceptor employment; for this purpose, elements of two fighters were detached from combat reconnaissance (after burner: 15,000 m in 7 minutes).

c. Transfers:

No transfers were observed.

X. Exercise by Elements of the Second Gds Meas Army (Tank) and Fourth Gds Meas Army from 7 to 10 October 1957

(see Annex 9)

Exercise area: Perleberg - Wittstock - Templin - Neuruppin

1. Armya. Participating Units:Western Party:

Elms 12th Gds Tank Div/
Second Gds Meas Army
possibly light elms 1st
Gds Meas Div/Fourth Gds Meas
Army

Elms 2d Arty Brig } Second
Elms 31st AAA Div } Gds
Elms 90th RL Regt } Meas Army

Eastern Party:

Elms 7th Gds Meas Div/Fourth
Gds Meas Army

Elms 3d Gds AT Brig)
Elms w/i Engr Regt Bernburg)
possibly elms w/i Sig Unit) GSFG
from Torgau and Leipzig)
w/i Army Unit, Altengrabow

Twenty-Fourth Air Army: Fighters, bombers,
reconnaissance aircraft.

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b. Rail Shipments and Movements of Columns to Assembly Areas:

- 3 Oct, 1 shpmt from Barnburg via Wittenberge.
- 4 Oct, 1 shpmt Ziesar - Wittstock.
- 5 Oct, 1 shpmt Rostock - Wittstock.
- 2/3 Oct (?), column incl JSUs and arty from direction Pessin via Friesack toward Klassen.
- 4 Oct, unloading of engr shpmt at Wittstock rr station. Departure toward Schweinrich.
- 5 Oct, loading of 2 AAA shpmts at Hennigsdorf rr station.
- 6 Oct, loading at Frankfurt/Oder rr station. Unloading at Templin rr station.
- 5/6 Oct, 13 shpmts to Perleberg - Bad Wilsnack - Gloewen area from Velten (1) - Hennigsdorf (2) - Dallgow (2) area and from Altruppin (8).
- 7 shpmts to Templin from Berlin/Schoeneweide (1) - Fuerstenwalde (2) - Frankfurt/Oder (4) area.
- 6 Oct, column incl 16 RLs and 150 mot vehs en route from Wusternark toward Naum.

c. Detailed Observations:

- 7 Oct, column incl 28 radio vehs from direction Bahitz toward Wittstock.
- 8 Oct, heavy arty firing from direction Schweinrich tng gr.
- 7 Oct, See Kaserne (2203), Friedrich Frans Kaserne (2201), former Standortlazarett (2202) and Fontane Schule (2204) at Neuruppin, only lightly occupied.
- 7-10 Oct, Olympisches Dorf (2067), Doeberitz: bulk of RL Regt absent from post.
- 7/8 Oct, beginning of Soviet maneuvers in Sollenthin - Goericks (east of Bad Wilsnack) area. Unloadings at Gloewen. Arrival of Soviet column from direction Gloewen and Gross-Leppin. Soviet units incl tanks, hv AT guns, amph vehs, APCs and radio vehs camped in Guntower and Netzower Forst.
- 8 Oct, many tanks and trucks towing guns passing through Rheinsberg.

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8, 9 and 10 Oct, many Soviet units allegedly bivouacked in the woods in Frankendorf - Walkow - Radensleben area.

Until 10 Oct, maneuvers in Fuerstenberg/Havel - Rheinsberg area.

9/10 Oct, heavy noise of engines and gun firing from area between Neu-Globsow - Fuerstenberg and/or from direction south of Fuerstenberg and southwest of Stalp Lake.

d. Return Shipments and Movements of Columns:

10 Oct, 1 shpmt to Bernburg via Wittenberge.
2 shpmts Buschhof - Magdeburg distr.
2 shpmts Greifswald distr - Fuerstenwalde.
1 tank shpmt Greifswald distr - Berlin/Schoeneweide.
3 shpmts Schwerin distr - Velten incl 1 shpmt loaded with 11 hv AA guns in Fretzdorf (south of Wittstock).
2 shpmts Schwerin distr - Dallgow.

10/11 Oct, 4 tank shpmts Greifswald distr - Frankfurt/Oder.

11 Oct, 1 shpmt Neuruppin - Leipzig.
1 shpmt Neuruppin - Torgau.

10 Oct, several columns from direction Loewenberg toward Krammen.

Sedan column, allegedly 150 vehs with officers, passing through Neuruppin in southern direction.

From the early morning until appr 1600, columns of all weapons incl many arty pieces and AA guns, passing through Strausberg in direction Muencheberg.

9 Oct, column of appr 150 vehs incl 16 RLs between Friesack and Nauen toward Nauen.
Columns incl RLs from direction Nauen toward Doeberitz.

9/10 Oct, columns of appr 200-250 vehs passing through Oranienburg and Bernau in southeastern direction.

10 Oct, additional columns of appr 100 vehs passing through Oranienburg toward Blumberg and Werneuchen.
5 columns incl appr 60 light AA guns, 16 morts, 30 RLs, and numerous APCs passing through Bernau from direction Wandlitz toward Eberswalde and on the road to Boernicke (east of Bernau).

At the same time, additional columns coming from northern direction on the Autobahn near Bernau toward Berliner Ring.

1 column of appr 180 vehs incl 18x85-mm AT guns, 18x122-mm field hows, 18x160-mm morts passing through Eberswalde from direction Finowfurth toward Trampe south of Eberswalde.

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10 Oct, unloading at Fuerstenwalde.
Loading at Neuruppin.

10/11 Oct, loading of arty at Wittstock destined to
Frankfurt/Oder.
At night, Neuruppin units returned to post from maneuvers.
Unloading of 2 AAA shpts at Neuruppin.

12 Oct, after Kaserne Braunsdorfer Strasse (4501),
Fuerstenwalde, had been only lightly occupied from 7-12
Oct, again fully lighted on 12 Oct.

12 Oct, units returned to Kaserne Braunsdorfer Strasse
from northern direction with appr 110 vehs incl 9 T-34s,
appr 30 APCs, 24 hv AA guns, and 12 mortars.

14 Oct, unloading at Berlin/Schoeneweide.

e. Comments

According to available information, units of the Second
Gds Mecz Army (Tank) reinforced by units of GSFG and
units of the Fourth Gds Mecz Army represented the two
parties in this exercise. The unusually large distance
of more than 100 km between the assembly areas of the
two parties is noteworthy.

These observations, as well as the employment of a
reinforced tank division against a mechanized division,
the fact that no loadings of the 12th Gds Tank Div were
observed after the exercise, the return movements of
columns, all of which came from the area east of the
Altruppin - Fuerstenberg line, and the combat activities
reported from the areas south of Fuerstenberg and south-
west of Stolp Lake on 9 and 10 October, lead to the
conclusion that the two parties were involved in a
meeting engagement, with the attack of the 12th Gds Tank
Div having advanced as far as the Gransee - Templin -
Fuerstenberg area.

The large number of columns observed during this exercise
again indicates that wheeled elements were usually
transferred by road.

2. Air Forces

a. Participating Flying Units of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army:

Supervision: Hq of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army
Ftr Div Puetznitz (Parehim, Puetznitz, Wittstock)
Bar Div Werneuchen (Werneuchen 2)
Rcn Regt Welsow (IL-28s)
Rcn Regt Zarbat (MiG-15s/Mi-1s)
Trans Regt (not belonging to the Twenty-
Fourth Air Army?)

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b. Missions:

Fighters: Combat air reconnaissance;
Air space control;
Escort for bombers.

Bombers: Bombing attacks with subsequent dropping of
live bombs over Gadow-Rosow tag gr.

Reconnaissance aircraft: (Welsow and Zerbst)
Combat air reconnaissance.

c. Transfers:

No transfers were observed.

C. Conclusions

I. Army

1. It could not be determined who directed and commanded the exercises. The following possibilities can, however, be assumed:

a. Exercise of one reinforced division:

Directed and commanded by division concerned (headquarters organized in several groups).

b. Exercise of elements of several divisions of one army:

Directed by army concerned or by one of the divisions, commanded by one of the divisions.

c. Exercise of elements of several armies:

Directed by GSGS or one of the armies, commanded by one of the armies.

One of the main purposes of the exercises probably was to accustom command agencies to conditions of atomic warfare and to increase their mobility, also in view of employment of elements not belonging to the unit concerned.

2. All major exercises involved several units and independent elements, in some cases from various army areas. Combat divisions were in no case employed with all their elements,

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and in many cases with less than 50 percent of their strength. These observations tend to indicate that the exercises were based on the assumed employment of atomic weapons by both parties. They demonstrate clearly that the Soviets turned away from their previous concept of mass employment which has become worthless in the atomic war era. Smaller and more mobile units were employed instead. The assumed heavy losses which might occur in case of atomic warfare were to accustom command agencies and troops to unexpected situations and improvisations as, for example, combined employment of remainders of several units, cooperation between units not belonging to each other etc. Familiarization with the task of executing operations with incomplete units would be of great advantage regarding camouflage and gain of time also in case of a surprise attack. It can no longer be assumed that the Soviets will have to fill up their units to wartime strength before employment in case of war.

3. Railroads (for tracked elements) and roads (for wheeled elements) were utilized for movements to and from employment areas, and distances of more than 200 km were covered by road. This procedure, which had also been observed in preceding years, tends to indicate that the Soviets will utilize roads also for concentration of forces over major distances. Loadings and unloadings, as well as movements and combat activities, were frequently conducted at night, probably because of camouflage and air security reasons. From this, it may be concluded that even with an assumed own air superiority, the Soviets take into consideration an effective "interdiction" by the enemy.
4. It was noted that, contrary to preceding years, artillery of GSFG was employed only on a small scale. It can be assumed that it was partly replaced by the simulated employment of atomic weapons, remote-controlled rockets and/or atomic bomb carriers.
5. River crossing, on which the Soviets have been concentrating since 1951, was again one of the main purposes of the 1957 exercises. No changes or improvements of procedures could be observed. River crossings from march columns, in deployed formation, with amphibious vehicles, in some cases under smoke screen protection, subsequently with ferries and finally with military bridges were observed.
6. It can fairly definitely be assumed that the efficiency of the reorganized units was being examined and tested during these exercises. Mobility and striking power are to be improved by the increased employment of mechanized and tank divisions and the abolishing of rifle divisions. It is possible that experiences made during the maneuvers will result in a further improvement of the organization of forces.

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1. The fact that the air force was employed during the exercises on more days than the army can be explained by the observation that, in some cases, movements to and from assembly areas and the assembly proper were controlled and secured by the air force which, in addition, provided welcome target representation groups. The employment of sometimes unusually small air force elements in the army exercises leads to the assumption that the operations were based on the principle of a proportioned allotment of supporting forces and that no operation of army units will be conducted without air force support.
2. It was observed during 5 exercises that the Hq Twenty-Fourth Air Army had a leading function. It can be assumed that this was also the case with other exercises. Flying units were mostly commanded by the commanders-in-chief of the fighter corps, and, in some cases, by the commanders of fighter divisions.
3. It was noted that air force elements were employed from regular air bases. Only in a few cases, aircraft transferred to emergency airfields for several hours. The reasons for this procedure, which is contrary to modern command concepts - i.e. dispersal of air force formations down to escadrille strength - are unknown. It is possible that advanced airfields were not to be utilized unnecessarily in order not to endanger camouflage. Furthermore, the Twenty-Fourth Air Army has other possibilities than the army exercises to practice dispersal of forces.
4. The task of the tactical air force to support army operations was particularly reflected by the following measures:
 - a. Main task of the fighters in all exercises was air space control, i.e. flying on patrols over limited areas and fighter sweep. In this connection, fights against reconnaissance aircraft and bombers (the latter also at night) were practiced, while there were no fights between fighters, probably because this is part of normal fighter training, anyway. Fighter employment against unmanned missiles was observed in one case. All this tends to indicate that the protection of the operational area by fighters against air attacks is considered the basic condition of successful moves on the battlefield.
 - b. Fighters were unusually frequently employed in reconnaissance missions. This observation, in connection with the fact that the Twenty-Fourth Air Army includes only small special reconnaissance units, tends to indicate that combat reconnaissance for the army is more and more turned over to fighters.

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- c. Fighters were in several cases employed also against ground targets.

Summarizing it can be said that, apparently, fighters of a tactical air army are increasingly assigned universal missions including fighter bomber missions in the combat area.

D. Summary

The GSFG maneuvers were held in order to train army command agencies and troops for employment under modern warfare conditions and to test possibilities of utilization of conventional weapons in an atomic war. The exercises proved that the Soviets still give offensive warfare priority over other tactics. This requires superiority of forces and means of combat which the Soviets undoubtedly possess in the field of conventional weapons and units. The tactical air force fulfilled its main mission within the framework of these exercises, i.e. the immediate support of army forces, in close cooperation with the units concerned. The GSFG maneuvers confirmed that the Soviets continue to expect employment of conventional means - in this case army and tactical air force units - and that they make large efforts to improve the command, armament and training level of these elements of the armed forces.

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Annex 1

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GSFG Exercises Above Divisional Level from late July to mid-October 1957

Date of Exercise	Exercise Area	Participating Units	Sketch Annex No
25-27 Jul	northern portion of Letzlinger Heide	bulk 18th Gds Meoz Div elms 19th Gds Meoz Div (Tank) elms 207th Mtz Rifle Div (Meoz) bulk 44th Army Arty Brig elms 3d Gds AAA Div possibly 304th Arty Brig } Third Shock Army (Meoz) Twenty-Fourth Air Army: Fighters, bombers, reconnaissance aircraft	2
19-22 Aug	Letzlinger Heide-Genthin-Altengrabow	<div> <div> Western Party: 7th Gds Tank Div/Third Gds Meoz Army 36th Bridge Bldg Regt/GSFG u/i Amph Engr Regt, Gera/GSFG presum elms 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div (Mar...)/Eighth Gds Army (Meoz) presum elms 10th Arty Brig/6th Arty Div presum elms 62d AAA Div/Third Gds Meoz Army elms 1st Mtz Rifle Div/NVA </div> <div> Eastern Party: 1st Meoz Div/Fourth Gds Meoz Army elms 308th Arty Brig/Eighth Gds Army (Meoz) bulk 71st Arty Brig/Fourth Gds Meoz Army elms 2d Arty Brig/Second Gds Meoz Army presum AAA Unit, Fuerstenwalde/Fourth Gds Meoz Army elms 1st Mtz Rifle Div/NVA Twenty-Fourth Air Army: Fighters, bombers, reconnaissance and transport aircraft </div> </div>	3

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Date of Exercise	Exercise Area	Participating Units	Sketch Annex No
3-7 Sep	eastern portion of Letzlinger Heide-Stendal-Centhin-Altengrabow-Magdeburg-on both sides of Elbe River	Hq of Third Shock Army (Meer) strong elms 19th Gds Meer Div (Tank) elms 94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div (Meer) bulk 36th Bridge Bldg Regt/GSFG elms 10th Gds RL Regt } Third Shock Army (Meer) elms 3d Gds AAA Div } Twenty-Fourth Air Army: Bombers, reconnaissance aircraft	4
6-7 Sep	Zeithain-Grossenhain	bulk 9th Tank Div elms Atty Brig elms RL Regt elms Engr Regt } First Gds Meer Army Twenty-Fourth Air Army: Fighters, bombers	
12-15 Sep	Letzlinger Heide	elms 7th Gds Tank Div/Third Gds Meer Army army units of Third Gds Meer Army	
13-16 Sep	Wittstock tng gr	Western Party: strong elms 10th Gds Tank Div/ Fourth Gds Meer Army army units of Fourth Gds Meer Army Eastern Party: strong elms 6th Gds Meer Div/ Fourth Gds Meer Army	5

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Date of Exercise	Exercise Area	Participating Units	Sketch Annex No
7-10 Oct	Perleberg-Wittstock-Templin-Neuruppin	<p><u>Western Party:</u> elms 12th Gds Tank Div/Second Gds Meez Army possibly light elms 1st Meez Div/ Fourth Gds Meez Army elms 2d Arty Brig elms 31st AAA Div elms 90th RL Regt</p> <p><u>Eastern Party:</u> elms 7th Gds Meez Div/Fourth Gds Meez Army</p> <p>Second Gds Meez Army</p> <p>elms 3d Gds AT Brig elms w/i Engr Regt, Bernburg possibly elms w/i Sig Unit from Torgau and Leipzig w/i Arty Unit, Altengrabow</p> <p>Twenty-Fourth Air Army: Fighters, bombers, reconnaissance aircraft</p>	<p>9</p> <p>CSFC</p>

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